JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 7 December 1857;—*for*,

COPIES "of a LETTER recently addressed by the Lord Chancellor of *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant of the County *Down*, relative to the Appointment of JUSTICES of the PEACE:"

"And, of any similar LETTERS addressed to other Lords Lieutenant of Counties in *Ireland*."

Secretary's Office, Court of Chancery, Dublin,
25 January 1858.

Sir,

IN answer to the Return called for by the Order of the House of Commons, dated the 7th ultimo, a copy of which was sent to me by desire of the Lords Justices with your letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to transmit a copy of a letter recently addressed by his Lordship to the Lord Lieutenant of the county Down, relative to the appointment of Justices of the Peace; and I am also directed to state that no similar letters have as yet been addressed by the Lord Chancellor to other Lords Lieutenant of counties in Ireland, the publicity given to that addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Down appearing to his Lordship to render that course unnecessary at present; but the resolution expressed in that letter has been alluded to in letters to some other Lords Lieutenant of counties, in reference to gentlemen recommended for the Commission of the Peace, of which letters the Lord Chancellor has not retained copies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Mark Perrin.*

Lieut.-Colonel Larcom, R.E.

Hazelbrook, Roundtown, 3 October 1857.

My Lord,

THE temporary absence of my secretary accidentally delayed my official notice of your Lordship's recommendation of Mr. R. H. Millar to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Down. I have also before me your letter of the 30th September, recommending the appointment of Mr. John Blakeston Houston, of Orangefield, who appears to possess a very adequate qualification in regard to property in the county. Mr. Millar's connexion with it appears to be only as agent to John Nugent, Esq., and to Major Andrew Nugent, who is himself a resident magistrate, but I do not know whether he attends the petty sessions at Portaferry, at which Mr. Millar purposes to act. His doing so may render further consideration necessary before deciding on the appointment of Mr. Millar; and, in any case, the latter should undertake to resign the Commission, on his ceasing to hold the agency of the Portaferry estate.

In reference generally to appointments to the Commission of the Peace for the county of Down, and some other counties in the north of Ireland, I feel obliged by recent events to introduce conditions which seem to me imperatively called

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called for with a view to the maintenance of public tranquillity. Your Lordship is no doubt well aware of the scenes of turbulence and riot which have so long prevailed in the town of Belfast. Whatever party may have been to blame for the acts or conduct which more immediately led to those disgraceful tumults, it is very manifest that they have sprung from party feelings excited on the recurrence of certain anniversaries, which for years have been made the occasion of irritating demonstrations, too often attended by violations of the public peace, and dangerous, sometimes fatal, conflicts. The Orange Society is mainly instrumental in keeping alive this excitement, and notwithstanding the proceedings respecting that association, which are now matter of history, and in consequence of which it was supposed that it would have been finally dissolved, it still appears to remain an extensively organised body, with but some changes of system and rules, under which it is alleged to be free from any legal prosecution. However that may be, it is manifest that the existence of the Society, and the conduct of many of those who belong to it, tend to keep up through large districts of the north a spirit of bitter and factious hostility among large classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and to provoke violent animosity and aggression. It is impossible rightly to regard an association such as this as one which ought to receive countenance from any in authority who are responsible for the preservation of the public peace; and however some individuals of rank and station who hold Her Majesty's Commission may think they can reconcile the obligations of that office with their continuing in membership with the Orange Society, it does appear to me that the interests of the public peace, at least in the north of Ireland, now require that no such encouragement to this Society should be given by the future appointment of any gentleman to the Commission who is, or intends to become, a member of it. I have no apprehension that the remark personally applies either to Mr. Houston or to Mr. Millar; but intending the rule to be of general application, I think it right to ask from each of those gentlemen the assurance that he is not, nor will, while he holds the Commission of the Peace, become a member of the Orange Society.

I think it right to inform your Lordship that in expressing the foregoing opinions and determination, I do so with the entire concurrence of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Maziere Brady.*

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Londonderry,
Lieutenant, County Down.

(True Copies.)

Dublin Castle,
4 February 1858.

Thos. A. Larcom.

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JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (IRELAND).

COPY of a LETTER addressed by the Lord Chancellor of *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant of the County *Down*, dated 2 October 1887, relative to the Appointment of JUSTICES of the PEACE.

(*Mr Curran.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons to be Printed,
9 February 1888.

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Under 1 oz

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